

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-25 are currently pending and are each amended by the foregoing amendment. Applicant submits that support for amended claims 21-25 is self-evident from Applicant's disclosure as originally-filed, including Figures 16¹ and 17², and the corresponding descriptive portions of the specification. Thus, no new subject matter is introduced by these amendments to the claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the Notice of Allowance mailed June 2, 2004. Filed herewith is a Petition to Withdraw from Issue and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to continue prosecution of this case. For at least the reasons set forth in the Petition to Make Special Under MPEP §708.02(VIII) submitted August 5, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 21-25 patentable define over the prior art.

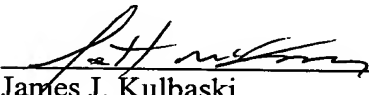
Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable allowance of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ See, e.g., "PRIMARY TEXT INFO. (PRM_TXTI)" and "ITEM TEXT SEARCH POINTER NUMBER (IT_TXT_SRPN)".

² See, e.g., "PROGRAM INFO. #1 (PGI #1)".